

List of megafauna in mythology and folklore

A **giant animal** in mythology is unusually large, either for their species or in relation to humans. The term *giant* carries some ambiguity, however in mythology definitions of what constitutes 'large' vary, with definitions ranging from 40 kg to 250 kg. At the upper, they may be further subdivided into small (250–500 kg), medium (500–1,000 kg) and large (over 1,000 kg). Megafauna often form one of the mythemes of a story. The narrative may revolve around a real animal or a primordial archetype of a gigantic creature, such as a dragon or the Midgard snake.

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A Hydra. The 16th-century German illustration.

Examples of megafauna

Africa megafauna mythology

- Dingonek
- Nandi bear
- Kongamoto
- Mokele-mbembe
- Grootslang
- Salawa
- Werehyena

Oceania megafauna mythology

- Bunyip
- Gazeka
- Yowie
- Tiddalik

Eurasian megafauna mythology

- Akkorokamui
- Bake-kujira
- Baku
- Bakunawa
- Basan
- Behemoth
- Dragon
- Fenghuang
- Chinese dragons
- Chimera
- Each Uisge
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- [Rainbow Serpent](#)

Central and South America megafauna mythology

- [Headless Mule](#)
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North America megafauna mythology

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- [Altamaha-ha](#)
- [Akhlut](#)
- [Bigfoot](#)
- [Jersey devil](#)
- [Mothman](#)
- [Mugwump](#)
- [Ogopogo](#)
- [Thunderbird](#)
- [Tizheruk](#)
- [Snallygaster](#)
- [Wechuge](#)
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- [Genbu](#)
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- [Nāga](#)
- [Nue](#)
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- [Kelpie](#)
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